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# Review of PARASITOLOGY: Parasites of North American Freshwater Fishes

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**PARASITOLOGY**

**Parasites of North American Freshwater Fishes,** *by Glenn L. Hoffman, University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1967, 486 p., illus., $15.00.*

This book is intended to serve as a manual for aiding in the identification of the freshwater fish parasites of North America. To this end an extensive key is given for each of the biological groups that have a notable number of fish parasites. In addition to this, there are sections devoted to such topics as: procedures for examining fish for parasites, methods of preserving and preparing parasites for analysis, a check list of parasites of each species of fish, and an extensive bibliographical list of references.

Emphasis is given to the economically important fish. For this reason the book will be of greatest value to fisheries managers and research workers. It will also prove to be most useful to the academic community, especially to the zoologist, parasitologist, and graduate student.

Perhaps the greatest value of *Parasites of North American Fishes* lies in having, for the first time, in one book, the essential information needed for the beginning phases of study for anyone who is interested in identifying the parasites of the freshwater fish of North America. Besides the larger groups of parasitic taxa, namely Protozoa, Helminthes, and Copepods, there is included an introduction to the Algae, Fungi, Mites, Clams, and Linguatula that attack freshwater fish. For the larger

groups there are excellent identification keys usually presented in couplets of contrasting characteristics. These keys are limited to identification to the genus. For each genus all of its species are listed along with the references to the pertinent literature. Besides identification, these references include consideration of the life cycle and control of the given species.

The excellent list of references are characterized by their relative completeness and up-to-dateness. The 60 pages of alphabetical-by-author bibliography contain the literature up to 1966.

The material covering the minor groups, such as the Algae and Mites, is rather skimpy. It might be asked why the Cyclostomes were omitted. The economic importance of the lamprey is great. The time, effort, and cost that has gone into the control of the sea lamprey predation of the Great Lakes fish cannot be easily overlooked.

With respect to the identification of parasite genera, the keys seem workable. However, added value would be given to them if the terminology used would have been identified via illustrations. Particularly for one who is first beginning work in this area, it might be difficult to follow keys without appropriate aid. The diagrams that are in the book show a very high level of excellence.

Often a host-parasite list is helpful in identifying a parasite. The included check list is quite complete. The index features a rather complete list of each species of parasite listed under the appropriate generic name.

Because no comparable book exists, Hoffman's effort has filled an important need. It is the first review of the parasites of the North American freshwater fish.

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